

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, and 13-31 are pending in the Application. Claims 14-22 and 29-31 have been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has required election between Group I, Claims 1-11 and 13 and Group II, Claims 23-28 (Office Action, page 4). Applicant elects Group I, Claims 1-11 and 13 with traverse.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement. Group I and Group II are so sufficiently closely related that examination of Claims 1-11, 13, and 23-28 would pose no serious burden on the Examiner. Applicant should not be forced to divide the invention across multiple applications, and it is respectfully requested that the election of species requirement be withdrawn and that Claims 1-11, 13, and 23-28 herein be examined together in their entirety.

CONCLUSION

In light of the forgoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 7, 2005

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